

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council**  
**Performance Outcomes Committee**  
**November 13, 2023**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members present:**

Susan Wilson, Chairperson

Noel O'Neill, Chair-Elect

Walter Shwe

Steve Leoni

Karen Baylor

Uma Zykovsky

**Invited External Partners present:**

Theresa Comstock, CALBHBC

**Staff present:**

Justin Boese

Linda Dickerson

Jenny Bayardo

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**Item #1: Welcome and Introductions**

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Susan Wilson welcomed all committee members, guests and staff.

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**Item #2: Development of Recommendations for the 2022 Data Notebook  
(Impact of Covid-19) Overview Report**

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Susan Wilson opened discussion on development of the recommendations for the 2022 Data Notebook overview report on the Impact of Covid-19. She noted that the main text of the report is around 40 pages, but there are extensive appendices included that double the length of the document.

Susan informed the group that the recommendations for Part I of the 2022 Data Notebook are already done. Susan wrote these recommendations based on previous years, as there has not been much change in those metrics. She said that while she is open to feedback on those, her main goal is to gather input on the recommendations for Part II.

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Steve Leoni said that while the data in Part I has been lagging behind by a couple of years, the CalAIM initiative should result in more expedient and current data in the near future. He said it may be worth mentioning this in the report. Linda Dickerson commented that besides getting current data, we need to get it in forms that are accessible and useable by the public. Susan said that both of these issues had been brought up in recent CalAIM meetings.

Susan said that Noel O'Neill has done some work on Part II recommendations from the perspective of preparing counties for future public health emergencies. Noel said he envisioned that the Executive Summary for the 2022 Data Notebook would consist of a brief summary of the data along with the recommendations. That is the document would then be shared with stakeholders and the legislature. He went on to share three specific recommendations for Part II:

1. Staffing to serve the needs of consumers at the county level. Agencies should spend the time and resources to build a cohesive team that is prepared to remain strong during times of emergencies.
2. Utilizing telehealth as a bridge between clinics and consumers. Agencies should be exploring ways to enhance telehealth services.
3. Addressing the negative emotional consequences that students have experienced. Agencies should develop and implement strategies to prepare for the impact of future emergencies on youth.

Noel included some examples of specific strategies tied to these recommendations. Steve Leoni and Karen Baylor provided some suggestions for strategies to build on his recommendations. Theresa Comstock commented that these strategies can be used to strengthen responses to any emergencies, and not just future pandemics.

Uma Zykofsky shared some input focused on prevention and early intervention. In regard to developing telehealth, she said that peers and other staff should be included in telehealth services too, so that the full care team can be connected to consumers. Uma also said that there has been an increase in anxiety in adults and seniors and suggested a recommendation for specialty mental health and managed care plans to find strategies to identify and treat this earlier.

Uma said that she liked that the appendices including best practices that the counties identified. She suggested a round table or panel discussion to analyze these practices more to determine which ones should be promoted regional or statewide. Uma also said that emergencies affect populations and communities in different and disproportionate ways, and it is important to identify the resources that those communities need. This

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includes identifying and supporting the trusted messengers and peers within those communities.

Steve suggested a recommendation to develop institutional memory regarding strategies and best practices. He said that with the ongoing workforce issues, including burnout and turnover, it would be beneficial for counties to have a record of what did and didn't work well in this emergency that can be used for future emergencies. This could include practices that worked in their own counties, but also information on strategies used by other counties.

Susan then checked in with the committee and staff regarding their thoughts on the Executive Summary, including who the intended audience is for it. Jenny Bayardo said that there are a several potential audiences for it, including the local boards, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), and the state legislature. Uma said that since the Data Notebook on telehealth was provided to DHCS, this one should be as well, since it is in many ways a follow-up to that notebook.

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**Item #10: Wrap Up and Plan for Future Activities**

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Susan Wilson thanked everyone for their input and said that she would work on incorporating their various recommendations into the report. Once that is done, the report will be complete.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.**